As you begin to research your topic, you may find that you need to narrow or broaden your topic in order to find relevant sources. Below is an example of how you might do this; use the examples to do your own brainstorming about narrowing/broadening your focus.

Narrowing: Broadening:

What are some of the health problems pitbulls typically have? Why? How is dog breeding related to these health problems?

Other categories (e.g., issues)

Other categories (e.g., roles)

Where do pitbulls come from? What were they originally used for? How did they become what they are today?

Questions about those other categories of your topic

Why do people use pitbulls for dogfighting? What are the effects of this on dogs and their public image?

Health

Breeding

Dogfighting

Topic:

Pitbulls

Actor

Advocate

for causes

Country/Pop Rock Musician

Topic:

Taylor Swift

Questions about those other categories of your topic

How does her acting compare to her music? What makes some artists good at several things?

Why does she support these causes? How well do celebrity causes succeed in helping?

Why does Taylor’s music cross genres? What makes some musicians popular with many audiences?